

**THALICTRUM THALICTROIDES (L.) EAMES & BOIVIN (RANUNCULACEAE):  
NEW TO TEXAS**

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ABSTRACT

*Thalictrum thalictroides* is reported as new to Texas. A key to species of the genus occurring in northeast Texas is included.

KEY WORDS: *Thalictrum*, Ranunculaceae, Texas

*Thalictrum thalictroides* Eames & Boivin, rue anemone or windflower, is an erect, slender, glabrous perennial herb 1-2 dm high that grows from a small cluster of fusiform tubers. Basal leaves are biternately compound while the few-flowered umbel is subtended by 2 or 3 opposite or whorled, sessile, ternately compound involucreal leaves. The 5-10 sepals are petaloid, 10-15 mm long, and white to pale pink-purple in color. Pistils number 8-12. The achenes are fusiform, saliently several-ribbed, and tipped with the persistent, sessile, capitate stigmas (Gleason & Cronquist 1963). Some botanists still place this taxon in the segregate genus *Anemonella*, which is based solely upon its umbellate inflorescence. The other species of *Thalictrum* from the United States have inflorescences that are panicles, racemes, or corymbs (Park & Festerling 1997).

*Thalictrum thalictroides* is widely distributed in eastern United States and is also known from Ontario, Canada (Park & Festerling 1997). In states adjacent to Texas, the species is known to occur in the Gulf Coastal Plain Region of Choctaw and McCurtain counties in southeast Oklahoma (Paul Kores, pers. comm.). It has also been documented from the Gulf Coastal Plain Region of southwest Arkansas in Miller County (Smith 1988), just east of Bowie County, Texas. The following collections from Lamar and Red River counties in Texas extend the distribution of *T. thalictroides*

southward approximately 20 km from its nearest documented station in Choctaw County, Oklahoma, but, more importantly, constitute the first report of this species from Texas.

Specimens Cited: TEXAS. Lamar Co.: 1.2 miles north of Pinhook Community, S side of Little Pine Creek, 17 Apr 1999, *Singhurst 7739* (BAYLU). Red River Co.: 2.3 miles northwest of Manchester, S side of Big Pine Creek, 0.7 miles SW of Flag Pond, 15 Apr 1999, *Singhurst 7737 & Berry* (BAYLU); same location (fruiting material), 13 May 1999, *Holmes 10025 & Singhurst* (BAYLU); Tanyard Creek, 1.6 miles NW of Woodland, 17 April 1999, *Singhurst 7738* (BAYLU); same location (fruiting material), 13 May 1999, *Holmes 10072 & Singhurst* (BAYLU).

*Thalictrum thalictroides* occurs in mature hardwood forests on very steep (8-20%) slopes in moist soils with a rich humus layer. Common overstory trees include *Quercus alba* L., *Q. shumardii* Buckl., and *Q. muhlenbergii* Engelm. (Fagaceae), and *Ulmus rubra* Muhl. (Ulmaceae). Subcanopy plants include *Cornus florida* L. and *Cornus drummondii* C.A. Mey. (Cornaceae), *Sassafras albidum* (Nutt.) Nees. (Lauraceae), *Vaccinium stamineum* L. (Ericaceae), *Callicarpa americana* L. (Verbenaceae), and *Smilax* spp. (Smilacaceae). Associated herbaceous flora consists of *Agrimonia rostellata* Wallr. (Rosaceae), *Botrychium virginianum* (L.) Sw. (Ophioglossaceae), *Carex* spp. (Cyperaceae), *Desmodium* spp. (Leguminosae), *Podophyllum peltatum* L. (Berberidaceae), *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Michx.) Schott. (Dryopteridaceae), *Sanicula canadense* L. (Umbelliferae), *Senecio* sp. and *Solidago* sp. (Compositae).

Until this report, only two other species of *Thalictrum* were known to occur in northeast Texas, *T. arkansanum* Eames & Boivin and *T. dasycarpum* (Fisch.) Mey. & Ave-Lall. The three species may be distinguished by use of the following key, which is modified from Waterfall (1966) and Smith (1988).

1. Inflorescence umbellate; flowers perfect, sepals 5-10, white to pinkish, 5-18 mm long, persistent, stigmas capitate; plants 1-2 dm tall..... *T. thalictroides*
1. Inflorescence paniculate; flowers mostly imperfect, sepals 4-5, greenish to purplish, 1-4 mm long, caducous, stigmas elongate; plants 2-20 dm tall.....2
  2. Middle and upper leaves petiolate; carpels 2-9 per flower; plant decumbent, ca. 2-4 dm long; lower surfaces of leaves glabrous..... *T. arkansanum*
  2. Middle and upper leaves sessile; carpels 9-15 per flower; plant erect, ca. 2 m tall, lower surfaces of the leaflets usually pubescent..... *T. dasycarpum*

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